

In the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A liquid composition for providing restored or maintained colon functionality comprising an effective amount of a non-digestible oligosaccharide, at least one green tea catechin, at least one antioxidant, and a buffering agent mixture, said liquid composition being in a pH range of from about 4.7 to about 5.0.
2. (Cancel)
3. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the non-digestible oligosaccharide is chosen from the group consisting of xylo-oligosaccharides, soyoligosaccharides, fructo-oligosaccharides, trans-galacto-oligosaccharides, palatinose condensates, isomalto-oligosaccharides, inulin, pyrodextrin, oligofructose and mixtures thereof.
4. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the non-digestible oligosaccharide is chosen from the group consisting of oligofructose, short chain fructo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.
5. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 3 characterized in that the fructo-oligosaccharide is chosen from the group consisting of short-chain fructo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.
6. (Previously presented) The liquid composition of claim 4, characterized in that the short-chain fructo-oligosaccharide has a maximum degree of polymerisation (DP) of 4-5.
7. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of any one of claim 1, characterized in that the non-digestible oligosaccharide is at a concentration of about 3% to about 45% by weight.

8. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of ~~any one of~~ claim 1, characterized in that the at least one green tea catechin is selected from the group consisting of epicatechin (EC), epigallocatechin (EGC), epicatechin gallate (ECG) and epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), and mixtures thereof.
9. (Previously presented) The liquid composition of claim 8, characterized in that the at least one green tea catechin is epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG).
10. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 9, characterized in that the epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) is at a concentration of from about 0.1 to about 0.8% by weight.
11. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of ~~any one of~~ claim 8, characterized in that the epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) is derived from a decaffeinated green tea plant extract having an EGCG content of from about 25 to about 99% by weight.
12. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of ~~any one of~~ claim 9, characterized in that ~~it further comprises an~~ the at least one antioxidant is selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of water-soluble or water-dispersible oxygen scavenging agents, and mixtures thereof.
13. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 12, characterized in that the oxygen or free radical scavenging agent is selected from the group consisting of butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), tocopherols, ascorbic acid, ascorbic acid salts, anthocyanidins from fruit juice powder, anthocyanidins from fruit juice concentrate, anthocyanidins from vegetable juice powder, anthocyanidins from vegetable juice concentrate, and mixtures thereof.
14. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 13, characterized in that the oxygen or free radical scavenging agent consists of ascorbic acid and anthocyanidins from berry juice powders.

15. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of ~~any one of~~ claim 12, characterized in that the antioxidant is at a concentration of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight.
16. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of ~~any one of~~ claim 12, characterized in that it further comprises a trace metal ion scavenger.
17. (Previously presented) The liquid composition of claim 16, characterized in that the trace metal ion scavenger is selected from group consisting of ethylene diamine tetracetic acid (EDTA) and salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.
18. (Previously presented) The liquid composition of claim 16, characterized in that the trace metal ion scavenger is at a concentration of from about 0.05% to about 0.25% by weight.
19. (Previously presented) The liquid composition of any one of claim 16, characterized in that the buffering agent mixture selected from group consisting of citrates, phosphates, acetates, ascorbates, and mixtures thereof.
20. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 19, characterized in that the buffering mixture comprises sodium citrate and citric acid.
21. (Previously presented) The liquid composition of claim 19, characterized in that the buffering agent mixture is at a concentration of from about 0.1% to about 2% by weight.
22. – 30. (Cancelled)